

ELNA Board 2015-16 Candidate Questionnaire:

YOUR NAME: Bruce Eggers

1. From the website: The purpose of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association is to facilitate understanding with the City of Lawrence and Douglas County; to maintain and enhance living conditions; to foster communication in East Lawrence and to maintain good relations amongst neighbors, businesses, organizations and other neighborhoods in Lawrence.
As a board member, how would you contribute to ELNA's mission?

As a board member, I will contribute to the mission by listening and inviting more neighbors to get involved in the process. The neighborhood is going through a lot of change and transition. I would work to continue established relationships in the community and to facilitate dialogue, so that the neighborhood voice is always represented.

2. How many full ELNA meetings have you been to in the past 12 months?

I have attended 4-5 ELNA meetings in the past. Additionally, I have attended 5-6 City Commission meetings, 3-4 CAC meetings, Imagining meetings, informational meetings about the East Ninth project, and other meetings hosted by the cultural arts consultants.

3. Have you volunteered, donated, or attended ELNA events? If so, which?

I have attended the YART sale over the years and attended the neighborhood picnic this year. I look forward to getting more involved as a resident.

4. What kind of project(s) would you like to pursue for the neighborhood?

As a new person on the board, I would expect to spend the first year listening and learning and supporting projects that are already established and successful from the members who have been doing them for years. I would also like to learn more about conservation overlays and downzoning and help organize meetings with city representatives to publicly discuss them. These are complicated issues that can have unintended consequences if not implemented correctly. If the goal is to maintain East Lawrence as an affordable, economically diverse neighborhood it will take a lot of research and discussion to clarify how these work and what results can be expected.

5. How long have you lived in East Lawrence? Why did you move here?

I am a new resident! My wife and I rehabbed a tumbledown 1860's house at 904 Pennsylvania. We moved to Lawrence in 1993 and have lived all over town from east to west. I moved here because I want to walk or ride my bike everywhere and be close to like-minded friends and neighbors. I appreciate the live and let live attitude people have about most things. It seems chill in a way that other neighborhoods I've lived in have not. I spent many years traveling the streets as a letter carrier and I like the houses and scenery, especially all the gardens on Pennsylvania Street. I like seeing a lot of people around during the day and fact that lawncare isn't an organizing principle of life.

6. What are the major issues facing East Lawrence today?

- East Lawrence is a good place to live. The neighborhood is at a turning point. Let's figure out how to adapt to the future without losing the flavor.
- Infrastructure improvements are needed and should be implemented in a manner that respects the past and plans for the future. The public rights of way should accommodate the needs of people pushing strollers, pulling wagons, kids and commuters on bikes, wheelchairs, walkers and so forth, day or night.
- Must figure out a way to engage in conflict that identifies common goals, supports long term cooperation and friendship, and gives us the tools to navigate a diversity of opinions and backgrounds.

7. How would you characterize the essence of the neighborhood?

East Lawrence has grit. Like so many great neighborhoods all over the country, it could easily have been bulldozed to make way for a bypass or mall if not for the foresight and hard work of the activists who fought to protect it. Everyone who lives here is proud of this history, and is committed to carrying on this legacy. I am too.

8. What other community / city boards/ groups do you belong to or attended regularly this past year?

- Cultural Advisory Council and Lawrence city commission, Lawrence Unchained. In the past I served as shop steward and treasurer for the letter carriers local and was active in Scouting.

Thanks for reading this far! Anyone is free to call me at 785 760 0945 or email eggens.bruce@gmail.com with comments, questions, flames or other feedback. What would you like to see next year? Let's talk!